

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 01421 210937Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
----- 077859 /12
R 210911Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2141
USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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USIA FOR INA

DEPT FOR NEA/ARP AND NEA/EX

MANAMA FOR MATTRAN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, QA, US, SOPN, AFSP
SUBJ: WIRELESS FILE EQUIPMENT FOR EMBASSY DOHA

REF: STATE 301679

1. EMBASSY DOHA ECSTATIC ABOUT PROSPECT OF RECEIVING WIRELESS
FILE LOCALLY. WE WILL ARRANGE FOR EQUIPMENT OPERATOR. RE SHIPPING
INSTRUCTIONS, DUE TO LOCAL PORT CONGESTION THERE IS WAITING
PERIOD OF ABOUT 120 DAYS, WHICH IN PRACTICAL TERMS MAKES SEA
SHIPMENT TIME FROM STATES UP TO NINE MONTHS. THEREFORE,
REQUEST EQUIPMENT BE AIRSHIPPED.

2. OUR ECSTASY AT PROSPECT OF RECEIVING WIRELESS FILE DIRECTLY
IS TEMPERED ONLY BY TIMING, E.E. UP TO ONE YEAR BEFORE WE ARE
IN BUSINESS. SINCE EXPANSION OF POST AND ARRIVAL OF RESIDENT
AMBASSADOR TWO AND A HALF YEARS AGO, WE HAVE BEEN LIMPING ALONG
WITHOUT VIUTAL WIRELESS FILE SERVICE. VALIANT EFFORTS OF
SUCCESSION OF NON-RESIDENT PAOS TO PROVIDE WIRELESS FILE BY MAIL
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ON TIMELY BASIS HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF VICISSITUDES
OF LOCAL POSTAL SERVICE. WEEK-OLD WIRELESS FILE IS NEXT TO
USELESS. WE ARE ENVIOUS OF OTHER LOCAL MISSIONS, PARTICULARLY
FRENCH, WHICH HAS AFP TICKER AND WHICH RECEIVES ON DAILY
BASIS C
BLED SUMMARY OF US PRESS FROM PARIS. FRENCH AMB, WITH

JUST HINT OF SARCASM, PASSES ALONG TIDBITS OF LATTER TO US ON
OCCASION.

3. ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE TO EXPEDITE PROCUREMENT, SHIPMENT
AND INSTALLATION OF WIRELESS FILE EQUIPMENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED,
PARTICULARLY DURING THIS PERIOD OF TRANSITION AND INSTALLATION
OF NEW ADMINISTRATION, WHEN EVERYONE IS HANGING ON EVERY WORD
THAT COMES OUT OF WASHINGTON. IS THERE NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, SOME
USED EQUIPMENT OR BACKUP EQUIPMENT SOMEWHERE IN THIS WORLD THAT
WE COULD LAY OUR HANDS ON IN LESS THAN A YEAR? WE ASK THAT
SEARCH BE MADE TO SEE IF THERE ARE ANY INTERIM POSSIBILITIES.

4. LACK OF WIRELESS FILE HAS BEEN ONE OF OUR MAJOR FRUSTRATIONS
HERE SINCE MISSION EXPANDED. THIS IS NOT A FULLY FUNCTIONING
EMBASSY WITHOUT DAILY WIRELESS FILE SERVICE. WE APPRECIATE USIA'S
EFFORTS TO FILL THIS NEED, AND ASK THAT THEY BE ACCELERATED
WITHIN LIMITS OF THE POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DOHA01421
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760467-1234
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761226/aaaaavsd.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 301679
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WIRELESS FILE EQUIPMENT FOR EMBASSY DOHA
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, AFSP, QA, US
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006